

Great Salt Lake Advisory Council

Draft Report of the Subcommittee on Governance, Structure and Funding

February 19, 2009

Governance

Recommendation:

- Establish a permanent “Great Salt Lake Commission.”

Role:

- The Great Salt Lake Commission is an advisory body, able to set direction and priorities, exercise clear and accountable leadership, direct and fund the collection and/or development of critical scientific research and data, address conflicting mandates and uses, facilitate decisions across federal, state and local authorities and interests, advocate specific policies and decisions, educate and inform the public, respond to inquiries, moderate competing interests and concerns, provide overall guidance on management of the lake, including its watershed and ecosystem, and conduct other activities and functions consistent with the mission, role and authority of the Commission.

Authority:

- The Great Salt Lake Commission is an advisory body with authority to perform its mission and its role, listed above. Specifically, the Commission will have the authority to make decisions within its authority, commit and expend funds within its control, advocate, moderate, facilitate, gather, recommend, educate, inform, etc. In addition, the Commission will have the inherent authority that each individual Member may bring to the Commission.
- The creation of the Commission does not change existing authorities of local, state or federal governments, nor does it create another government agency or layer of government. Rather, it provides a vehicle for building cooperation among public, private and non-governmental entities and enables collaboration and innovation to benefit the ecosystem.

Structure:

- The Commission serves as a leadership council on behalf of the Great Salt Lake. It may establish an ad hoc science advisory or technical panel(s) or committee(s) and/or contract with agencies, entities or individuals to develop and acquire the data necessary to make accurate decisions. The Commission may establish a watershed and ecosystem coordination panel consisting of key involved interests and institutions to assure that a broad base of input and information is available to the Commission.
- The Commission will have a Chairperson and Vice Chairperson, appointed by the Governor. The Commission may retain staff to provide administrative or other support for its operations and activities.

Governance *(continued)*

Participation:

- The Commission will be a public-private partnership and will include seven (7) members, including:
 - Representative of the Utah State Legislature, appointed jointly by the President of the Utah Senate and the Speaker of the Utah House of Representatives;
 - Representative of Industry, appointed by the Governor;
 - Representative of Environmental/Conservation interests, appointed by the Governor.
 - Representative of the Governor's Office, appointed by the Governor;
 - Representative of Local Government, appointed by the Governor;
 - Director of the Utah Department of Natural Resources;
 - Director of the Utah Division of Water Quality.

Note: Consider expansion to eleven (11) members by adding one additional representative each from the Legislature (a total of one each from the House and Senate), Industry, Environmental/Conservation interests, and Local Government.

Accountability:

- The Commission shall be accountable directly to the Governor of Utah and to the Utah State Legislature, and indirectly to the public.

Funding

Recommendation:

- Establish a stable, reliable source of funding in an annual amount sufficient to fund the acquisition of the necessary scientific data and to provide limited administrative support.

Source:

- Recommend a surcharge on individual sewer connections in Weber, Davis and Salt Lake Counties.

Amount:

- Levy at least \$ 0.50 (fifty cents) per month per sewer connection.
(Rough estimate of annual revenue: 50¢ per month X 12 months = \$6.00 per year
X 450,000 connections = approximately \$2,700,000 per year.)

Note: Considered, but not recommended: \$ 0.25 (twenty-five cents) per month per sewer connection in Box Elder and Tooele Counties.

Collection Mechanism:

- Monthly surcharge to be collected by the Publicly Owned Treatment Works (POTWs) with discharge permits in the designated counties.